our fourfooted friends

Animal Rescue League of Boston • Spring 1993

Animal Rescue League of Boston

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Our Fourfooted Friends

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Our Fourfooted Friends
(US ISSN 0030 6851) *Published quarterly by the Animal Rescue League of Boston, 10 Chandler Street, Boston, MA 02116-5221.* Price $4.00 a year. Office of Publication, Animal Rescue League of Boston, 10 Chandler Street, Boston, MA 02116-5221. Address all correspondence, editorial, subscriptions to the Animal Rescue League of Boston, P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117-0265. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Animal Rescue League of Boston, P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117-0265. Second Class Postage has been paid at Boston, Massachusetts, and other mailing locations.

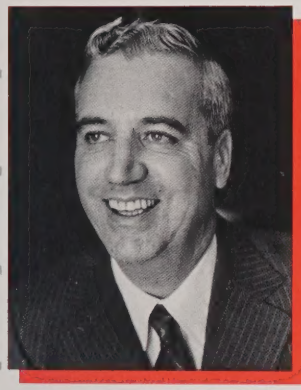
Spring 1993
Volume 90, No. 1

COVER:

Lined up for their family portrait are the "fabulous Finnegans" (l to r): Tyler, Alex, Annie, Mattie (a League pet) and Tuck. "Though she's not purebred, Mattie is just as golden to us as the other four," notes owner and photographer Dennis Finnegan who won honorable mention for this shot in the League's recent animal photography contest.

IN THIS ISSUE:

A Message from the President 3
Rabies Update 4
Prime Time for Pets 6
The Parents' Choice 8
1992 Annual Report 9
Veterinary Update 12
School Days 13
Newsfront 14
Animal Friends 16
Pets in the Picture 18



Arthur G. Slade, *President*

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Planning for Your Pets

With the passage from one season of the year to another, I cannot help but be reminded of the urgent need for prior and pre-arranged plans for our pets; care in the case of emergency or unexpected events. I have in mind such things as personal health emergencies and accidents as well as natural disasters such as blizzards, hurricanes, and other severe weather conditions. Basically, we should be concerned about any event which might suddenly require us to be separated from our pets. This is especially urgent if you live alone. Advance planning can make a tremendous difference in the stress caused to your pets if you are suddenly separated from them.

The recent blizzard in March is an obvious case in point. Blizzards and hurricanes almost always result in some people being evacuated from their homes with little or no advance warning. In almost all cases people who are taken to emergency shelters are told they cannot bring their pets and must leave them behind. Would you do this if it were your pets? Not me! It makes abundant good sense to have taken definite, positive steps to arrange for your pets' care and safety well ahead of any need for it.

This may be as simple as having a good friend or relative who is willing to take over in a moment's notice. However, it is always wise to be sure that this special person truly knows your animals, their habits, their feeding requirements, and their health needs and records. You should provide them in advance with your veterinarian's name, address and phone number. It might be wise to notify your veterinarian with a letter that you have made these arrangements, so that the veterinary hospital will have this information as part of your pet's medical records and thus not hesitate to deal with the person you have designated to provide this emergency care.

These arrangements will work equally well if you are taken suddenly ill, injured, or delayed in other ways and end up unable to see to your animal's care.

It may be that you do not have a friend or relative on whom you may rely for such kindness. In such cases, you will likely find it necessary to depend upon the services of a boarding facility, veterinary hospital, or animal shelter. I might point out that most animal shelters, including the League, are eager to help in an emergency, but they are so busy that they cannot usually provide long-term care. Thus it again makes good sense to secure in advance the services of professional care that knows ahead of time the special requirements of your pets.

In addition to making the necessary food, health, and business plans with such a facility before you need it, it is especially important to visit the actual housing facility (such as a kennel) to be sure that it meets good standards for care. A few points to keep in mind:

1. Cleanliness and freedom from odors.
2. Isolation of animals from one another. Do they have individual housing and exercise facilities?
3. Are the housing (pens, cages, etc.) and exercise areas large enough, with adequate light and ventilation?
4. If the staff refuses to show you their housing (kennel) areas, do *not* consider using their services.
5. Do they require full inoculations for all animals they board? If not, go somewhere else. This is of vital importance with the current rabies infection in our state and neighboring states.
6. Use some of the same values you seek in selecting other services. Talk with friends who have used their facility to get their opinions, ask your veterinarian for his or her advice, or call the law enforcement division of your local humane society or animal rescue league. For that matter, if you have questions you think I may be able to help with, give me a call at (617) 426-9170.

By the way, all of these suggestions apply just as much in the selection of a boarding home for your pets when going on vacation this summer.

In closing, I must draw your attention to the article in this issue about rabies. If you do nothing else this spring, be sure your animals have rabies shots, and keep them up to date in the future. For the first time in modern memory, we are faced with a rabies epidemic in our wildlife population and I have a dread fear of its spreading to our domestic pets this spring. Cats that roam outdoors are of special concern.

If you love animals, vaccinate them against rabies and keep them under constant control and restraint. To do otherwise at this time is foolhardy!

RABIES UPDATE:

Guidelines for Pet Owners

Pets await their turn at a recent League rabies clinic.

With the threat of the raccoon rabies outbreak now a reality in Massachusetts, the state has drawn up a comprehensive rabies control plan aimed at preventing the spread of the disease to domestic animals and humans.

The first confirmed case of a rabid raccoon in this state was reported in September, 1992, in the town of Ashby. By the end of the year, a total of 38 raccoons, from western, north central, and eastern parts of the state, had tested positive, as well as a skunk, a woodchuck, and a cat.

In releasing the new guidelines, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health urged each community to assume that it *already* has raccoon rabies, regardless of whether or not there have been confirmed cases, because of the unpredictable movement of the outbreak, and the need for advance preparation. The plan essentially charges each city and town, on the local level, with responsibility for implementing rabies control policies and procedures, under the direction of a designated Animal Inspector. These control activities include the capture of suspected rabid animals; arrangements for euthanasia, if necessary, and/or transport to state laboratories for testing; quarantine of domestic animals that have bitten humans; and isolation and confinement of dogs and cats exposed to rabid animals, according to state guidelines and regulations.

Local directors of public health have been given the primary responsibility for overseeing these activities, but animal control officers, humane society staff, police, veterinarians, and health care workers all play a vital role on the rabies control team, as do pet owners and parents.

Most urgent is the need for all pet owners to be aware that they must have both their dogs *and* their cats vaccinated against rabies. Under the new law, which became effective February 24, 1993, all cats, as well as dogs, over the age of six months are required to be vaccinated. It is recommended that dogs and cats be inoculated as early as three months of age.

The guidelines for handling a dog or cat that has been exposed to a potentially rabid animal vary depending on whether or not the pet has been immunized.

If a dog or cat with a current rabies vaccination is bitten by or comes in direct contact with a confirmed or suspected rabid animal, it must be given a booster shot immediately; confined, with veterinary observation, for a period of three months; and the local director of health and animal control officer must be notified. A vaccinated animal that comes home with a wound of unknown origin should also receive a booster shot, and be closely observed by its owner for the next three months.

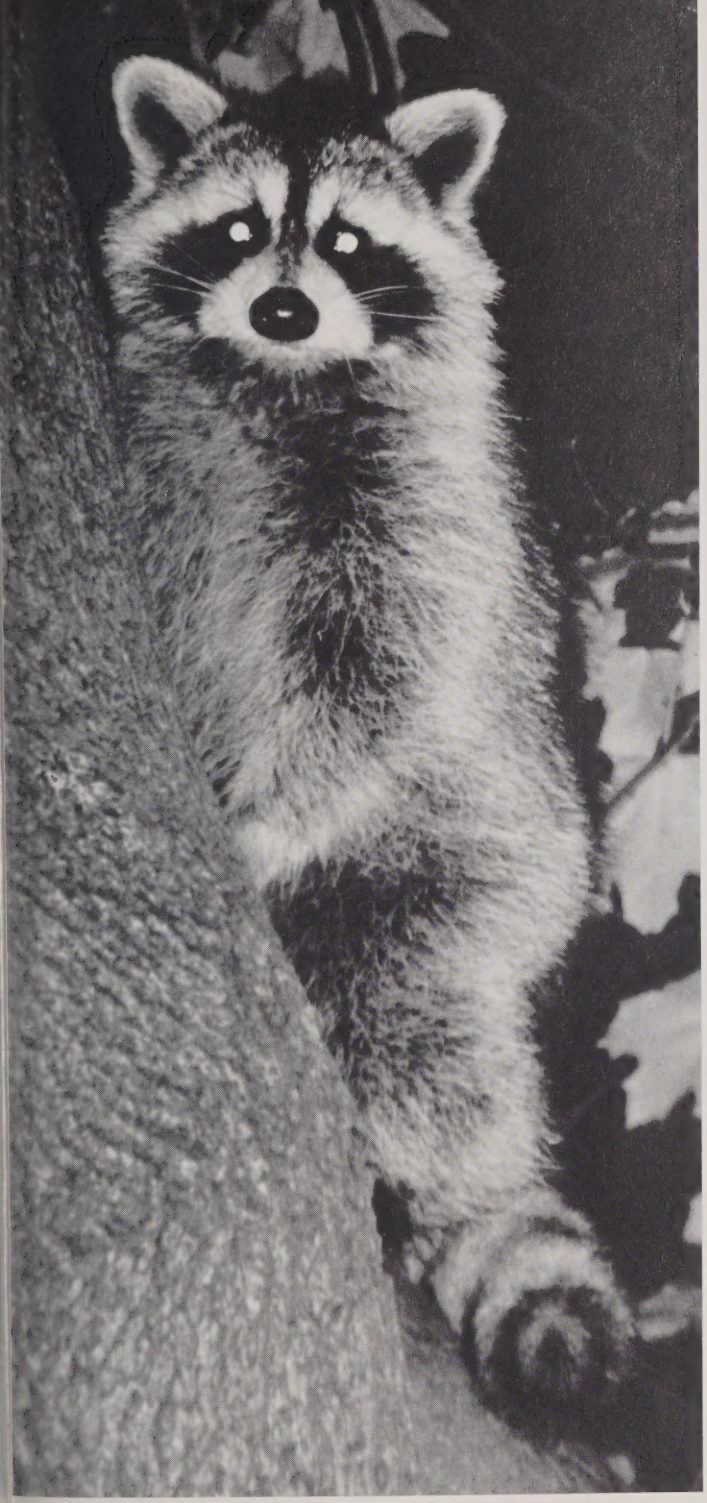
Tragically, for pets that have not been vaccinated and are bitten by a known or suspected rabid animal, the local director of health must be notified, and it is most likely that the animal will have to be euthanized. The only alternative to this is six months of strict isolation and confinement under the direct observation of a veterinarian.

If a dog or cat bites a human, the bite must be reported to the board of health and to the town animal inspector, and the animal must be quarantined for observation for a ten-day period.

In the city of Boston, and in the town of Brewster under the direction of the Cape Cod branch, the Animal Rescue League is responsible for rabies quarantines. Although the League frequently cooperates with animal control authorities in the communities which it serves, the prime responsibility for quarantine of animals that have bitten humans, or have been bitten by wildlife, lies with the local community authorities.

As important as it is to prevent the spread of this disease from wildlife to domestic pets and humans, it is also vital to avoid the kind of panic that can lead to the widespread, indiscriminate destruction of healthy wildlife. The League has already received reports of private citizens shooting, clubbing and beating raccoons to death, overreactions that are not only inhumane, but also illegal.

State or municipal police are authorized to kill raccoons, skunks, foxes or woodchucks which display behavior that causes the officer to *reasonably conclude* that the animal is



Several cases of rabies in raccoons have already been confirmed in Massachusetts.
Photo by Ben Souther of Quincy.

rabid. They do not, however, have the right to kill such animals at the request of a homeowner who is simply concerned about property damage, for example. The Division of Fisheries and Wildlife also cautions that daytime activity of animals that are normally nocturnal (like raccoons) *may or may not be* a sign of rabies. "Wildlife seen during daylight should not be randomly destroyed under the suspicion of rabies," they warn.

The best protection against wildlife rabies is common sense and caution. The majority of exposures to rabid animals in the mid-Atlantic outbreak of rabies were avoidable, according to a study reported by the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. Of those bitten or scratched by raccoons, for example, 78% had initiated contact with the animal by feeding, playing, petting, attempting to separate fighting animals, or handling a dead animal.

In addition to immunizing their pets against rabies, there are several other safeguards that pet owners can employ.

1. Always keep pets confined in the house, in the yard or, when walking, on a leash. An unleashed animal can run from its owner to attack a raccoon or other wild animal.
2. Always feed your pet indoors. Feeding pets outdoors can attract wild animals or strays.
3. Avoid wild, or stray, animals even if they seem to be friendly, and teach your children to do the same.
4. Don't handle a sick or injured wild animal. Instead, contact the local animal control officer for assistance.

Anyone planning to board their pets during summer vacation should be aware that in order for a dog or cat to be accepted at a boarding kennel, or even treated at an animal hospital or veterinary office, the owner must be able to show proof of a current rabies vaccination certificate.

To help pet owners protect their dogs and cats, the League has been offering monthly low-cost rabies immunization clinics since February. Following are answers to some of the questions frequently asked by concerned pet owners, as well as a schedule of upcoming rabies immunization clinics.

Q. How often does my pet have to receive shots?

A. All dogs and cats over the age of three months should be vaccinated. No matter how old your pet is when it receives its first inoculation, a second vaccination will be required one year later. After that, every three years will be sufficient.

Q. If my pet is bitten by a rabid raccoon two or three weeks after it has been vaccinated, can I assume that it is protected against the disease?

A. Unfortunately, no. The rabies vaccine does not become fully effective until 30 days after the inoculation.

Q. What should I do if my pet comes home with a bite or scratch from an encounter with an unknown animal?

A. The best remedy for this is prevention. Pets should be kept in the house, or on a leash, at all times. Once a pet has been bitten by an unknown animal, it will need a booster shot immediately, assuming it has been vaccinated. You must also notify the local board of health and animal control official.

Q. Who do I call to report the presence of a raccoon that I suspect may be rabid?

A. Contact your city or town's Animal Inspector.

RABIES CLINICS

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

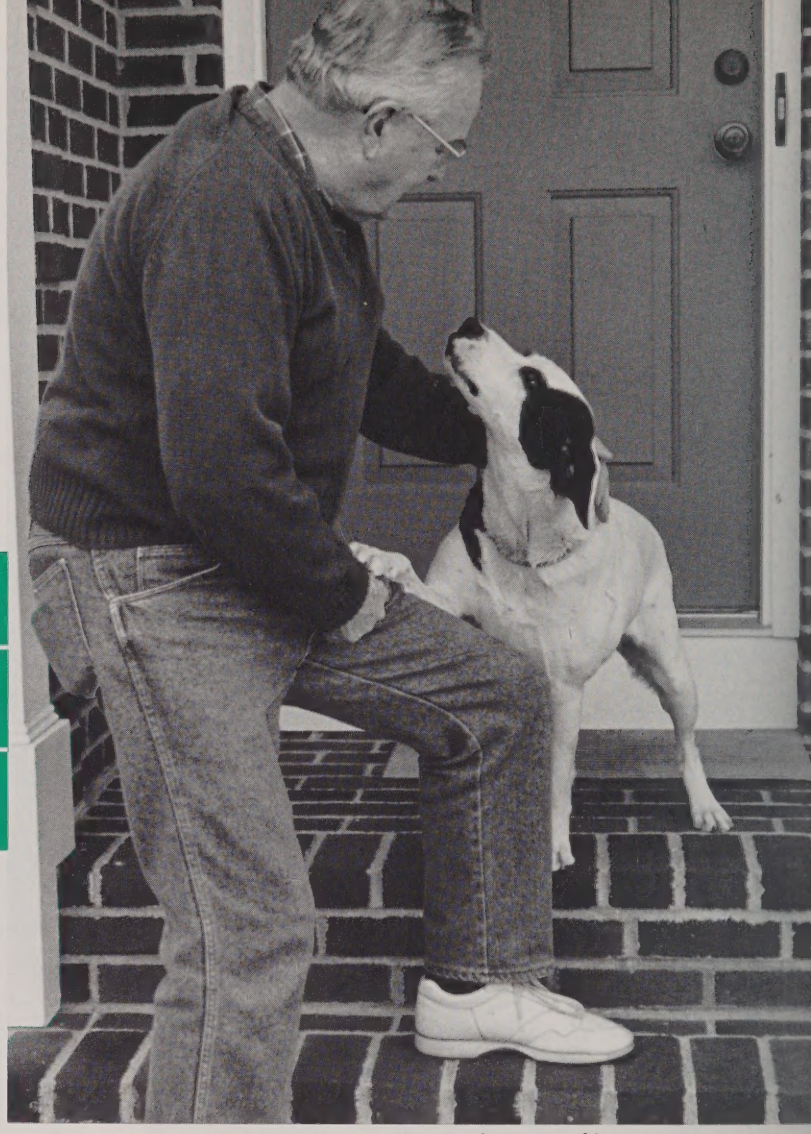
Saturday, May 1	Engine Co. #9 239 Sumner St., East Boston
Saturday, June 5	Engine #30, Ladder 25 1940 Centre St., West Roxbury

Cost: $2 for rabies vaccination

(Note: Dog licenses will also be available. Pet owner must have I.D., and proof of spay for female dogs.)

In order for a pet to receive a three-year rabies vaccination, the owner must bring proof of a previous vaccination for that pet. A rabies tag will not suffice; there must be a signed vaccination certificate from a veterinarian. Without proof of previous vaccination, pets will receive a one-year vaccination.

Prime Time for Pets



Companionship was the most frequently cited benefit of pet ownership.

Do people who adopt pets live healthier, longer, happier lives?

Is a pet the best prescription for what ails you?

A source of entertainment, enjoyment, affection and loyalty, pets have also been hailed in many studies as a means of reducing stress and lowering the blood pressure.

In an effort to learn more about how pet ownership has affected the lives of older persons who adopt pets, Dr. Avery Weisman, senior psychiatrist at Massachusetts General Hospital, and professor of psychiatry emeritus at Harvard Medical School, recently surveyed 230 men and women who have adopted pets from the League under the Purina Pets for People program. This program provides pets at no cost to individuals 60 and older, covering initial adoption fees and veterinary costs, and supplying a starter kit of pet food and supplies.

Response was excellent, with 41% of questionnaires filled out and returned by those surveyed, all of whom had owned their pets for a year or more. The 95 responses included three filled out on behalf of deceased persons by family members who, in each case, had happily taken on the care of the pet.

Of the 92 remaining, 65 (71%) were women, and 27 (29%) were men. Their marital status was: 40 (43%) married, 30 (33%) widowed, 10 (11%) single, 3 (3%) divorced, and 9 (10%) no answer.

As was hoped, the adopters in general were a healthy group. Asked how they would rate their own health, they answered as follows: 68 (74%) good, 13 (14%) fair, 9 (10%) limited (including one who entered a nursing home whose daughter was caring for her dog) and 2 (2%) no answer.

Answers to the question "How many visits to the doctor have you made in the past year?" seemed to corroborate this self-assessment. Twelve (13%) had not been to a doctor at all, 19 (21%) had made one visit, 20 (22%) two visits, 28 (30%) three or more, 7 (8%) many (10 or more), and 6 (6%) did not answer.

In hopes of documenting health benefits resulting from pet ownership, Dr. Weisman, who volunteers at the League offering bereavement counseling to those who have lost a companion animal, had asked the respondents to compare their health now with before they owned a pet, and indicate how the pet had changed their daily activity, and their life in general. "My hypothesis had been that pet adoption would have changed, or improved, their quality of life," he explains.

To his surprise, however, "What we found is that most of these people had always owned pets, and also were in good health," he reports. While it is tempting to see a cause and effect relationship, "whether or not having a pet keeps you healthy is a hypothesis that has not been proven by this survey," he concludes. "We would need to do a similar survey of a comparison group that includes non-pet owners."

Of the entire group, in fact, there were only three first-time pet owners, and another five who had owned pets "years ago," or when they were young. Two did not answer this question, but the remaining 82 (an impressive 89%) reported that they had had pets all their lives!

Asked why they adopted when they did, it was interesting to note that 28 people, or 30%, adopted this animal to replace a pet that had recently died. This was somewhat surprising since, "We often hear people who have recently lost a pet say 'I could never go through that again,'" Dr. Weisman notes. "But these people, many of whom had lost several pets in the past, overwhelmingly felt it was worthwhile to take the chance again and make a new commitment."

The majority cited companionship and affection as their major motivation for wanting a pet. Among their comments:

"She lights up my life."

"He keeps us young!"

"She jumped on the cage, and adopted us!"

"I never met a cat I didn't like."

"I'd be lost without my dog!"

"I will always have a cat or dog — I like them more than most people!"

Other benefits cited included an inducement to exercise and an improved sense of security. A few people mentioned that recent changes in the law now allowed them to keep a pet in their current apartments.

Despite their enthusiasm, those surveyed were very realistic when asked what advice they would offer other seniors who were thinking of adopting, and what burdens, if any, did pet ownership present. "Be sure you have the strength, time and resources to devote to a pet," was the most prevailing sentiment expressed. Several people pointed out that the ability to travel would be curtailed, and that there would be expenses involved. The general feeling was best expressed by one woman who concluded: "Costs can be a problem on a fixed income, but the love of a pet is worth it."

Dogs and cats fared about equally well as the pet of choice, with 47 dogs and 51 cats represented in the surveyed population, a total of 98 animals, including a few multiple adoptions. Each species had its strong advocates:

"Cats are self-sufficient. They are easier to care for, loving and help fill the lonely house."

"I prefer a dog since they get you out of the house, and are the most devoted to their owners," another said.

Even though they had previously owned pets, for many the adoption of this particular pet did represent a life-altering choice at an especially crucial time, such as retirement, or the loss of a spouse.

"After my wife died, I felt no purpose and alone. But the dog brought warmth into my home . . . it seems filled with life. If I hadn't gotten the dog, I think it would have taken me longer to appreciate life again," one man wrote.

Another observed: "I had just lost my wife, and needed something to fill a void — certainly not another woman," he added.

Asked what was the best part of adopting a pet, one man responded: "I wouldn't get much exercise if I didn't have a dog to walk, and I would be talking to myself eventually if I didn't have a pet to say something to once in a while!"

Another said: "I take better care of myself, so I can care for her."

And: "I now have a true companion who walks with me, goes shopping with me, never is too tired, has a headache, or complains about having a bad day!"

Ultimately, one woman probably summed it up best in one simple word: "Love!"

The Parents' Choice

Whoever said that you cannot teach an old dog new tricks, anyway? The League's Animal Friends Summer Camp, located in North Falmouth, Massachusetts, is in its 44th year of operation and still evolving and adapting to accommodate the ever-changing needs of its campers and parents.

Ed Powers, humane education coordinator at the League, recently mailed a survey to the parents of campers who attended the 1992 summer session. The survey asked parents to describe their feelings about the current camp format and solicited suggestions for new curriculum choices. The results of the survey were very helpful in designing the 1993 sessions for the Animal Friends Summer Camp. "I was pleased that so many parents took the time out of their busy day to stop and complete this survey," said Ed Powers. "Working together like this will help to continually improve the whole camp experience for the children and their parents."

The most noticeable change in the 1993 camp format will be the first full-day program ever offered by the League. Of the parents who answered the survey, 71% chose the option of a full-day session and the majority of those parents preferred the full-day option be offered during the first session of camp. The parents also chose the operating hours of the first session, full-day program which will be 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The parents who responded to the survey offered many useful suggestions for new classes to be taught at the camp; as a result of those suggestions, the following are some of the courses that have been added in 1993: puppetry, nature exploration, macrame, model rocketry, recycled crafts, dance and animal first aid.

1993 should prove to be an exciting year at the Animal Friends Summer Camp as Ed Powers, his staff and the parents of the campers work closely with the children to instill in them a humane ethic and respect for nature by making it fun to learn. If you are interested in finding out more about the camp and what it can offer to your child this summer, please telephone Ed Powers at (617) 426-9170.

Timothy Mullowney and Michael Crowley learn to care for farm animals at Summer School.

For more information about the camp:

ANIMAL FRIENDS SUMMER SCHOOL SCHEDULE

SESSION I:

June 28 to July 16, 1993
Monday – Friday (Full-Day)
Registration Fee: $255*
($210 for each additional child in the same family.)

SESSION II:

July 19 to August 13, 1993
Monday – Friday (Half-Day)
Registration Fee: $220*
($200 for each additional child.)

ANNUAL PET SHOW

Saturday, July 24
(Rain date: Sunday, July 25)
Nye Baseball Field in
North Falmouth

*Children wishing to attend both sessions may do so for a total registration fee of $400.

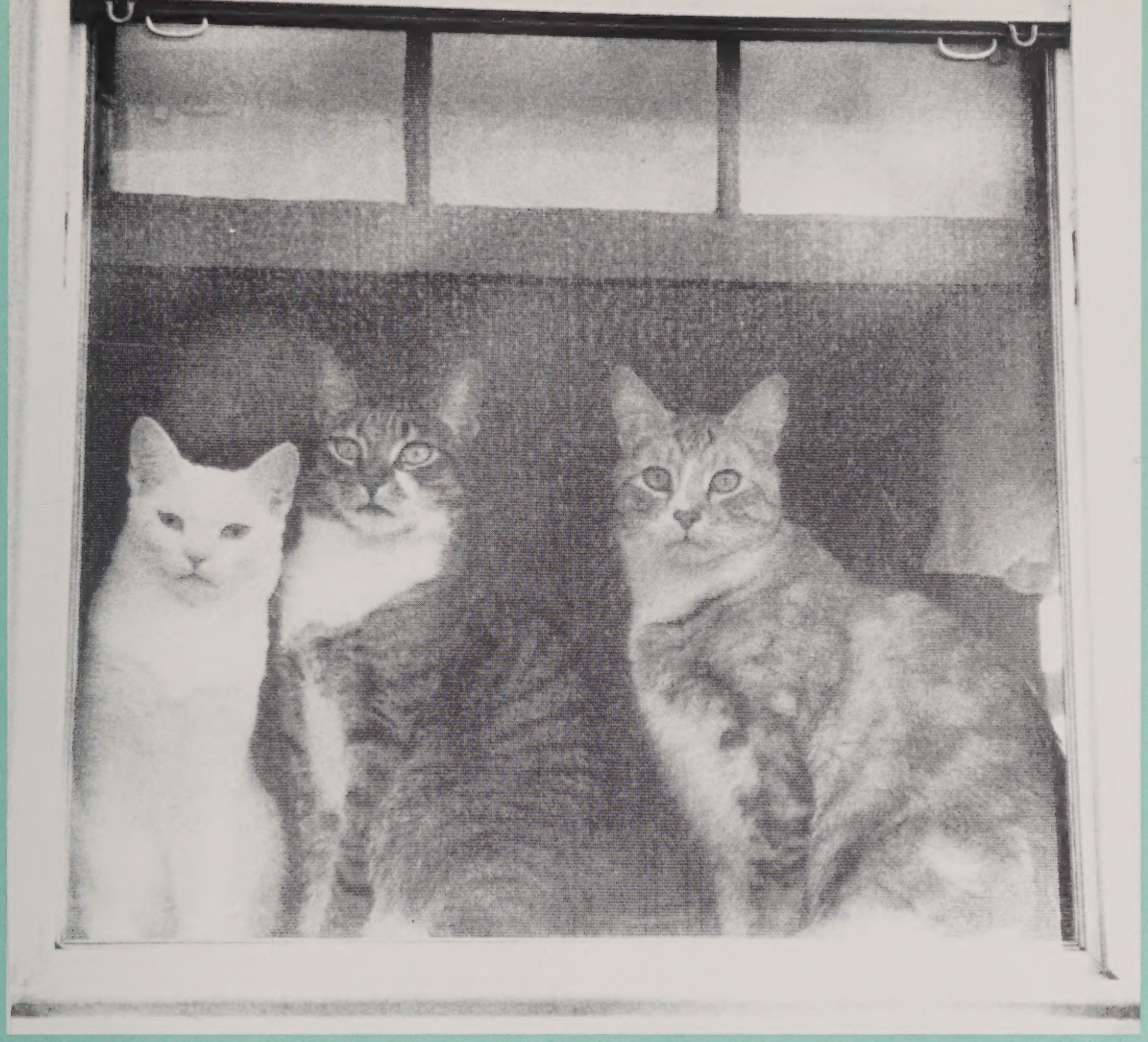


Photo by Lisa D. Bonney

Kitten and cat adoptions continue on the rise.

1992 ANNUAL REPORT

A significant increase in investigation, law enforcement and veterinary health care activities, coupled with the fiscal restraints imposed by a generally sluggish economy, combined to make 1992 a particularly challenging year for the League. We are pleased to report that the continued strong support of our members and friends enabled the League to both meet expanded needs for animal care on the local level, and extend a helping hand beyond state borders to aid animals left homeless by Hurricane Andrew. We would like to extend appreciation and a warm welcome to the 1,186 new members who joined the League in 1992, bringing our total membership to 29,740.

(Continued on next page)

1992 ANNUAL REPORT

During the past year, the League provided services to a total of 221,540 animals, not including the inhabitants of 3,069 fish tanks inspected in pet shops. Once again, a dramatic rise was noted in the number of investigations conducted by the League's law enforcement department. Officers responded to 1,420 reports of suspected cruelty or neglect, a 19% increase over the previous year, resulting in 107 court appearances, compared to the previous year's record high of 86 court appearances. A total of 178,280 animals were seen during investigations, and in 376 inspections of sites where animals are kept commercially, such as pet shops, zoos, stables, kennels, fairs, and research laboratories.

The rise in animal abuse, which continues unabated, leads League staff members almost daily into appalling, and heartbreaking, situations. In one such case, a League law enforcement officer went to the aid of a cat reported injured in a fight at a rooming house in Hull, only to have the gray and black tiger die in his arms on route to medical assistance. Investigation disclosed that the cat's neck had been broken by a neighbor of its owner, who deliberately murdered the animal during a drunken, domestic altercation with his girlfriend, who happened to be holding the cat at the time. He was subsequently arrested by the Hull police, at the League's request, and pled guilty to a felony charge, receiving a sentence of probation and ordered to enroll in an alcohol rehabilitation program, and perform fifty hours of community service.

The case of a 6-month-old puppy that was kept locked in a closet without heat or ventilation, and forced to wear diapers by its owner, a Boston woman, had a more positive outcome. Thin, scarred from its owner's "punishments," and suffering from an underdeveloped immune system, the puppy was nursed back to health at the League, and placed in a new home. "Prognosis for his future is good, although he will still demonstrate certain physical frailties, and emotional adjustments," according to the supervising agent's report.

Another dog, a black, male Chow, was found tied with a wire cable around its neck to a stake in the ground on the Boston Common. Malnourished, feverish and suffering from infection caused by the wire which was imbedded ½ inch deep into his neck, the dog was restored to health at the League, where staff members rechristened him "Comrade Chow." Despite a public appeal for information, the dog's tormentor was never located, but the resulting publicity on the case in the *Boston Herald* led to scores of offers to adopt "Comrade Chow" who is now happily residing in a new home.

A tragic series of fires in the beginning of the year which killed 170 animals in eastern Massachusetts, including 87 racing greyhounds at a Lynn kennel, and another 83 animals in fires at Plimoth Plantation and a Dedham barn, focused attention on the serious need for better fire safety regulations in places where animals are kept. The League is pleased to report that the city of Lynn has since adopted the League's recommendations for improved fire safety regulations for kennels. Others efforts to prevent animal suffering included continued

Below, dogs line up for their rabies inoculations; top right, this puppy received emergency care after getting his leg caught in a bicycle spoke; and, lower right, adoption supervisor Judy Cooper poses with a few of the more than 3,400 cats placed in new homes.

support for animal protective legislation, such as the still-pending bill that would increase the penalties for maiming or cruelly treating one's own pet, which is currently classified as a lesser crime than harming an animal that belongs to someone else.

On a happier note, the League was able to find homes for 5,363 animals during the year, including 1,725 dogs, 3,425 cats and 213 miscellaneous animals. Of these, 124 dogs and cats were adopted at no cost by persons over 60 under the Purina Pets for People program (see story on page 6).

Efforts to reunite lost pets with their owners were highly successful, with 1,219 animals returned to their owners, a 12% increase over the previous year's reunion rate. A significant rise in activity was also reported by the League's outpatient clinic for small animals where veterinarians administered care in 12,884 outpatient visits, a 42% increase over 1991's outpatient census. The veterinarians also provided care for all of the animals brought to the shelter for emergency treatment by ambulance and rescue agents who responded to 13,998 calls for assistance, up more than 10%. These figures include 149 miscellaneous animals that were treated, rehabilitated and released.

During 1992, the League geared up for the anticipated arrival of the raccoon rabies outbreak by expanding its program of rabies immunization clinics. A total of 980 animals, including 650 dogs and 330 cats, were immunized at rabies clinics held in various Boston neighborhoods, and at the League's Sheldon branch in Salem, and Cape Cod branch in Brewster.

Salem also reported a rise in the number of exotic pets, such as pot-bellied pigs, which are adopted impulsively and then given up by their owners. Illegal as pets in many cities, including Boston and Salem, six miniature pot-bellied pigs were turned over to the Sheldon branch when their owners were forced to get rid of them. The Salem staff was also involved in a number of unusual rescues, including an owl that was retrieved from a jet engine test cell inside General Electric's Lynn plant, and a large, injured gannett found in Manchester, blown far off its normal flight course.

The Safford branch in Dedham was pleased to report its highest-ever adoption figures, due in part to the practice of transferring surplus adoptable animals from the city shelters in Boston and Salem to the Dedham facility. In December alone, more than 150 animals were adopted, the highest number in any one month since the shelter opened in 1986.

On Cape Cod, the Brewster branch expanded its outreach activities, bringing the joys of pet companionship to nursing home residents through monthly pet therapy sessions at nursing homes in Harwich, Brewster, Dennis and Hyannis.

Animal relief efforts were extended on a national level when Hurricane Andrew ravaged southern Florida in late summer. With the support of members who contributed to its Hurricane Andrew Disaster Relief Fund, the League was able to dispatch a truckload of emergency supplies, plus much-needed manpower, to aid in the animal relief efforts at the Krome Disaster Center near Homestead.

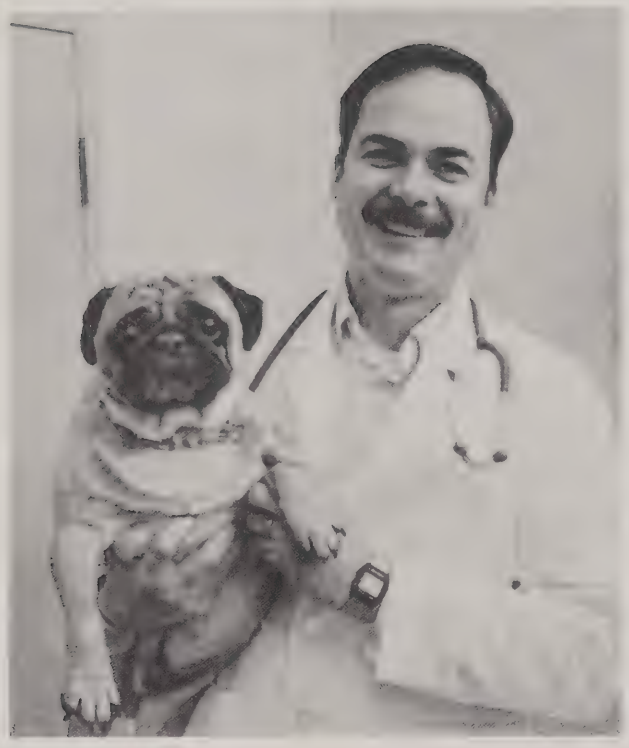
An emotional highlight of the year came when staff, family and friends gathered to honor the dedicated people behind all of these statistics at the first annual Employee Appreciation Day, held at the League's summer school in Cataumet in September. During a day of games, prizes, food and fun, service pins and awards were presented to 61 employees, including some who have served the League for more than two and three decades.

The behind-the-scenes efforts of League employees to improve the quality of life for animals were featured in a new video on the League's services and programs filmed in the fall by Active Video, Inc. of Waltham. In conjunction with the video, two 30-second public service announcements were also produced, focusing on responsible pet ownership and adoption.

Additional educational and outreach activities included the Animal Friends Summer School program, about to embark on its 44th season; classroom pet demonstrations and educational presentations for school children; tours and school programs at the League; the continued dissemination of pet care information and the quarterly publication of *Our Fourfooted Friends*.

...w enforcement officer Alan Borgal conducts a program for school children.

Abuse victim "Comrade Chow" gets a fond send-off as he leaves for a new home.



A Veterinary Update:

New Ways to Detect and Prevent Heartworm

By Edward A. Leonard, D.V.M.

For dog owners, the arrival of spring means more than balmy days and budding flowers. It also signals the beginning of mosquito season, time to have your dog tested for heartworm and placed on preventive medication until the threat of infestation subsides, in late fall or early winter.

Due to some new developments in the field, you may find this year that your veterinarian recommends that your dog be given two different heartworm tests. In the past, your dog was screened for heartworm by means of a microfilariae test (microfilariae are microscopic organisms which will develop into heartworm larvae). Recent studies, however, have shown that this test can miss occult, or hidden, infestation, especially in dogs that have been on the monthly preventive medication which are not likely to have detectable levels of microfilariae. A newly developed antigen test, which screens for the presence of heartworm antigens (a protein on the skin of the heartworm) is more sensitive and effective in detecting even hidden infestations.

The American Heartworm Society recently recommended that for greatest efficacy, and safety, most dogs should be given both tests. Why both? If there is any danger that microfilariae are present, the microfilariae test will prevent the adverse reactions that could occur if preventive medication is administered. These reactions can be severe and potentially life-threatening if the daily form of preventive medication is inadvertently given to a dog that already has heartworms.

Administration of both tests is recommended for animals in the following categories: dogs over six months old with an unknown history of heartworm prevention; dogs that have been on the daily heartworm preventive medication; and dogs with uncertain heartworm preventive compliance. The term "uncertain compliance" does not imply negligence on the part of the owner. It simply recognizes the fact that even the most conscientious owner can have a pet that inadvertently missed a dose by avoiding it in the food bowl, spitting up a pill, or vomiting.

It's particularly important for first-time dog owners to understand the critical need to have their dogs tested for heartworm each year, and placed on preventive medication, beginning before and ending after mosquito season is over. In this region, we recommend April through the beginning of December, to be safe. Transmitted by the bite of an infected mosquito, heartworms are much more dangerous to your pet than are other parasites. The adult worms live near the dog's heart and, left untreated, cause coughing, lethargy, extreme weight loss, shortness of breath and, ultimately, collapse.

New Added Protection

A new form of monthly heartworm medication is now available that offers protection against other parasites in addition to heartworm. This new double- or actually quadruple-duty drug is designed to effectively prevent heartworm, and at the same time prevent or control the most common dog hookworm, roundworm and whipworm infections. When you take your dog to the veterinarian for its annual heartworm test, be sure to ask about this new added-protection option.

"Okie" is all ears.

School Days

These memorable moments were captured on the first day of school at dog obedience classes offered at the League by Canine Behavior Services, Inc. Like all new students, class members were alert and eager to learn, but also a little apprehensive — and some of the dogs were nervous too! For information on dog obedience training, call 1-800-TRAINOW.

A STAND-UP ACT — The best part of school is snack-time for "Clay" and owner Tim Connors.

HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE? "Cindy" and "Freddie" get acquainted.

What is this, homework?

LOVE — Looks like the beginning of a friendship for "Clay" and "Okie."

"Bobo" takes a break.

IS THIS A TEST? "Keesha" demonstrates "sit"/"stand" with dogged determination for trainer Alan Cunningham.

CLASS OF '93 (l to r): Cindy, Salsa, Piper, Maxine, Keesha, Clay, Okie, Jeremiah, Freddie and Bobo. Their owners are (respectively): Jack Haines of Quincy, Stephen Shapiro of Brookline, John Hughes of Belmont, Molly Maloney of Milton, Sandy Gensemer of Charlestown, Tim Connors, Barry Hayes, and Ruby Braxton, all of Boston, Cheryl Buccelli of Allston, and Bobby Blanchard of South Boston.

NEWSFRONT

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON

ON LOCATION

"Dread," an 8-year-old pit bull terrier, prepares to sink his teeth into his third film role, under the watchful eye of Thomas White, director of operations at the League. White, along with League law enforcement officers Alan Borgal, Jack Burns, Diane Begonis, Ed Powers and Alan Cunningham, were on hand to monitor the use of animals in the filming of "The Good Son," which stars Macaulay Culkin, Elijah Wood, and Dread, a canine actor from Olympia, WA, whose specialty is "acting vicious."

"He understands when to be aggressive, but when you say 'cut,' you can reach over and pet him," according to owner and trainer Diane Jessup, director of the Center for Canine Aggression Studies in Olympia. The League officers monitored three days of scene shooting in various locations in and around Gloucester, Annisquam, and Manchester-by-the-Sea, at the request of the American Humane Association's Hollywood office which is responsible for ensuring the humane treatment of animal performers. Dread's previous film credits include roles in "Plainclothes" with "Cheers" star George Wendt, and "Danger Sign," with costars Martin Sheen and Marlee Matlin.

CALLING ALL PETS TO PET APPRECIATION DAY

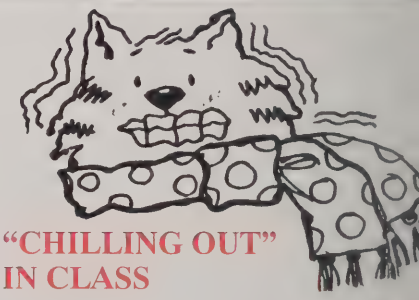
Mark your calendar and plan to attend Pet Appreciation Day on Boston Common, Saturday, May 8, featuring a pet show with prizes, give-aways, and pet care information, exhibits and demonstrations. The event, which marks the climax of Be Kind to Animals Week, May 2–8, will begin at 10 a.m. on the Common parade grounds at the corner of Beacon and Charles Streets. Prizes will be awarded in a variety of categories, including most obedient, best tailwagger, best pet with two feet or less, pet/owner look-a-like, etc.

To be eligible, pets must be entered by a child between the ages of 6 to 14, accompanied by a parent or responsible adult. Judging will be based on pet care, personality and appeal. All animals must be on leashes, or in carrying cages.

Those wishing to enter the pet show must register in advance, by April 30, and must be able to furnish the League with a copy of a current rabies inoculation certificate for all dogs and cats. To obtain registration forms, call the Animal Rescue League at (617) 426-9170.

MAKING A MONKEY OUT OF SIMIAN SMUGGLERS

Mexican zoo officials attempting to smuggle gorillas, orangutans and chimpanzees out of the U.S. were recently caught and arrested, thanks to a U.S. federal agent who was willing to make a monkey of himself. The Mexicans had been shown live animals and arranged to take delivery of them at Opa-Locka Airport. When they showed up to claim the first cage at the airport, however, its occupant turned out to be a federal agent dressed up in a gorilla suit. "It's risky and dangerous to use a real animal, so we had to use a willing substitute," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Dan Gelber. The would-be smugglers were arrested and charged with trafficking in primates, in violation of federal laws protecting endangered species.



"CHILLING OUT" IN CLASS

Humane education coordinator Edward Powers and law enforcement officer Ray Orlando recently participated in a two-day ice rescue course presented by the N.Y. State Office of Fire Prevention and Control at the New York State Academy of Fire Science at Seneca Lake, NY. They joined members of fire departments, rescue squads and other emergency response agencies in gaining first-hand experience in the latest ice rescue techniques. The class spent much of their training time on Lake Seneca, using ice rescue boats, sleds, special ice rescue suits and other ice rescue equipment to perform rescues of students acting as simulated "victims" who were trapped after falling through the ice.

BRAZIL'S "LAST DOLPHIN" GOES HOME

"Flipper," a 12-year-old bottlenosed dolphin confined for the past two years alone in an outdoor tank at an abandoned amusement park near Sao Paulo, Brazil, was rescued in January in a helicopter mercy mission arranged by the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA).

The last remaining captive dolphin in Brazil, where it has been illegal since 1991 to keep marine mammals in captivity, Flipper was in a critical state after the filtration system in his tank broke down. The animal was literally swimming in its own waste, and veterinarians and marine mammal experts warned that Flipper must be moved or he would die.

In a special tank designed by WSPA consultant Richard O'Barry, trainer of the dolphin star of the 60's TV show "Flipper," Brazil's own Flipper was transported in a Sikorsky heavy-lift helicopter to the waters off the fishing town of Ponta da Barra, where the dolphin had been captured in 1982. He was placed temporarily in a sea pen built by WSPA with the help of the local fishermen, some of whom remember when the dolphin was captured, and claim that his mother and brothers are still alive in these waters. Part of the rehabilitation process involves reintroducing Flipper to the local dolphins which can swim up and get acquainted, thanks to the sea pen's special construction and location. Soon Flipper will be released, hopefully to rejoin his own pod.

WSPA OFFERS SANCTUARY TO "DANCING BEARS"

With the full support of the Greek government, an animal rescue team from the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) this winter rescued three "dancing" bears from gypsy camps in Greece, where it is illegal to hold bears in captivity. Once liberated, the bears were taken to a newly established "dancing" bear sanctuary in northern Greece, built and operated by WSPA on 25 acres of land donated by Greek wine magnate John Boutari. A fourth bear, named "Dimitri," was removed from the camp but was in such poor condition that it had to be euthanized. "The extreme suffering of this old animal moved everyone," said Victor Watkins, who led the WSPA rescue team and directs the worldwide "Libearty" campaign which funds the sanctuary. "The whole idea of this project is to protect other bears from the hellish agony endured by Dimitri for so many years."

The custom of forcing bears to "dance" by beating and other cruel treatment, or to pose for photographs for the entertainment of tourists, is still widespread in Greece, Turkey, Bulgaria, Russia, Romania, and India. Although the Greek, Turkish and Indian governments have banned the practice, authorities have been reluctant to confiscate the animals because, until now, there has been nowhere to house and rehabilitate them. WSPA's Libearty campaign is now planning a second sanctuary in Turkey, where there are estimated to be over 100 dancing bears in the streets.

HEARING DOG CENTER TO HOST FINAL OPEN HOUSE

Red Acre Farm Hearing Dog Center in Stow, MA will host an Open House Sunday, May 23, from noon to 4 p.m., a final celebration of the center's accomplishments before the program closes at the end of June. Since its creation in 1981, the organization had successfully trained hundreds of unwanted dogs from animal shelters to act as "hearing dogs" for the deaf and hard of hearing. Citing recent economic conditions and the high cost of maintaining a quality program, the board of directors of Red Acre Farm, Inc. in January sadly announced the impending closure of the program.

The Center's friends are invited to meet hearing dogs and their owners, view videotape presentations and hearing dog demonstrations, and attend the final graduation ceremony where recently certified teams of hearing dogs and their owners will receive diplomas. Hamburgers, hot dogs and other refreshments will be served at the Open House, which will be held at the Center's facilities at 109 Red Acre Road, in Stow, .4 mile off Routes 62-117. A Park 'n' Ride shuttle service will run from Stow Shopping Plaza to the Center. For more information, call (508) 897-8343 (voice/TDD).

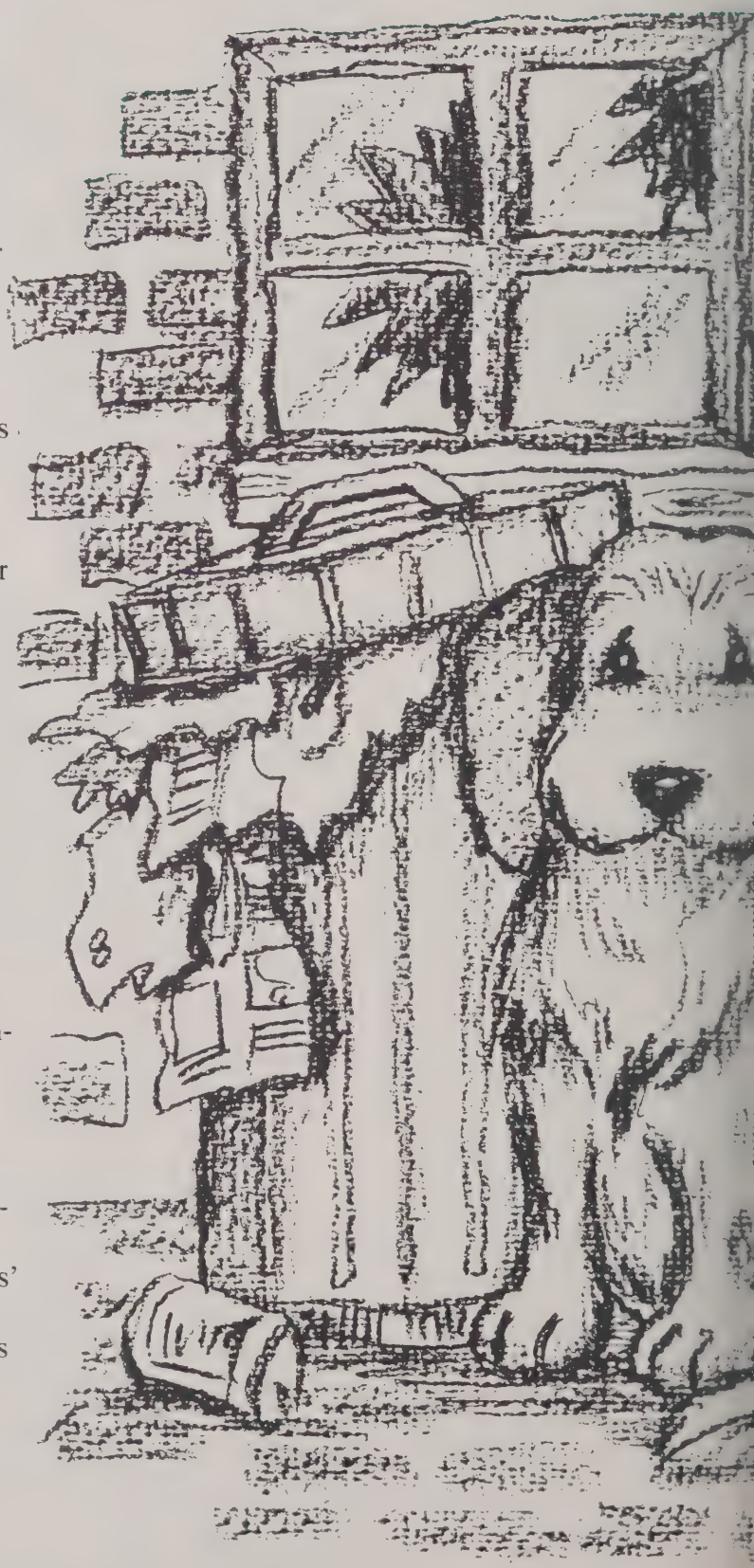
MEET THE DOG HERO OF THE YEAR

"Sparky," a 7-year-old Labrador retriever from Tennessee, was selected from more than 200 contestants as the 1992 Ken-L Ration Dog Hero of the Year. When Sparky's owner, John "Bo" Culbertson (right), suffered a heart attack last January, Sparky saved his life by dragging him home.

Culbertson was taking an early morning walk with Sparky when he suddenly collapsed, managing to tightly grasp Sparky's collar before losing consciousness. Sensing that his master was in serious trouble, Sparky dragged his burly 227-pound owner nearly 200 yards to their front door, where he was found by his wife and rushed to the hospital.

Applications are now being accepted for the 40th annual Dog Hero award. If you know of a dog's heroic deed that occurred after October 1, 1992, send a detailed description, along with your name, address and telephone number to : Ken-L Ration Dog Hero of the Year, P.O. Box 1370, Barrington, IL 60011. Entries must be postmarked by December 31, 1993. For complete contest guidelines, send a self-addressed, stamped business-size envelope to the same address.

Lost Pets



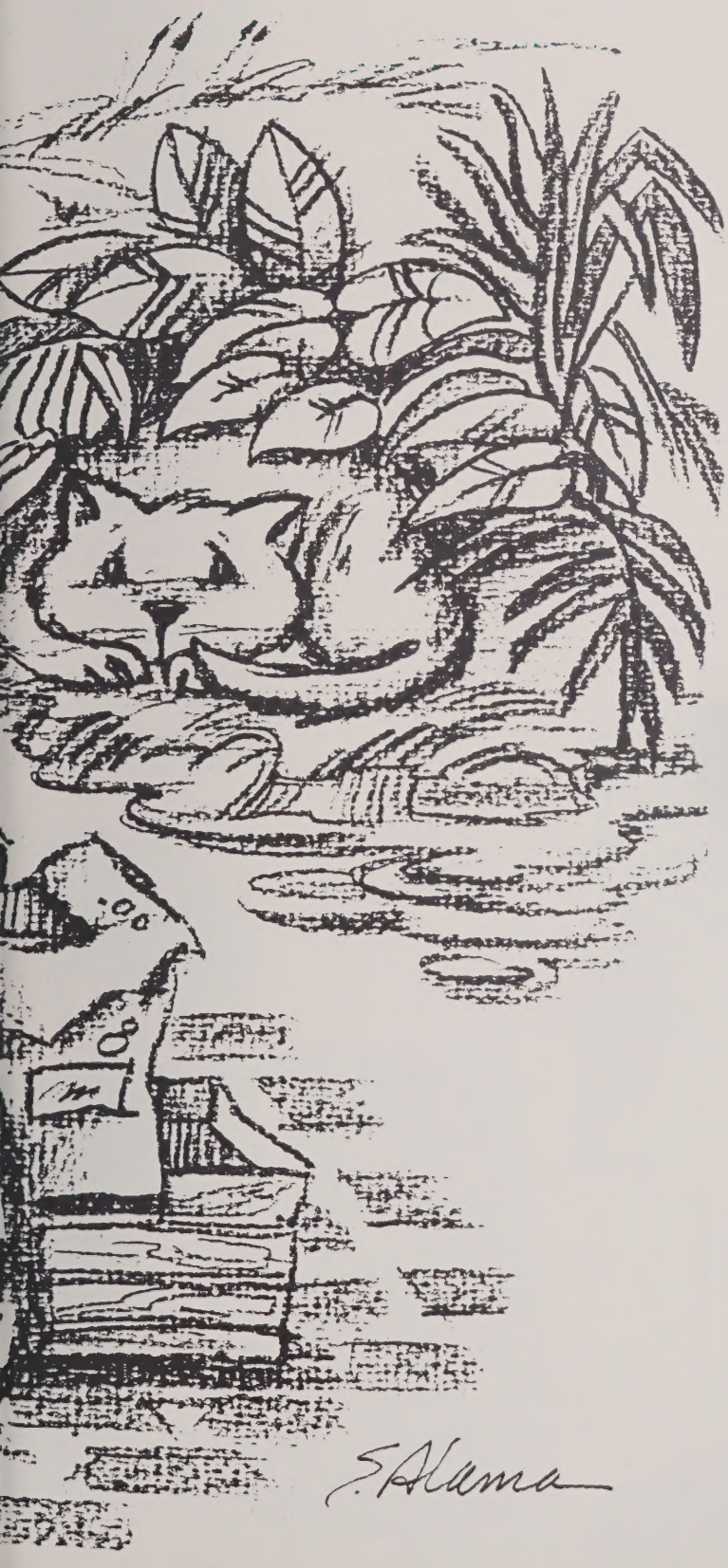
Have you ever been lost? How did you feel? Lonely? Scared? Did you worry that perhaps you'd never find your way home?

Pets can easily get lost too. They can feel scared and confused when they cannot find their owner. If a dog or cat cannot speak, how can it tell someone to find its owner? Who is at fault when a pet is lost?

The biggest problem for humane society shelters and animal pounds is finding the owners for thousands of lost kittens, puppies, cats, and dogs. Most of these pets arrive in the shelter without proper identification. Dogs should be wearing a dog license tag. This tag has a number on it that lets the dog officer know who owns it; the tag should be attached to the collar. It is against the law for a dog **not** to have a license tag. Each year, by the first day of April, a dog owner must get a new license tag at the City or Town Hall. This tag "speaks for" a lost dog and without it a dog could become lost forever.

Here is what you can do to make sure your pet does not get lost forever! First, your dog should wear its license at all times. In addition, both dogs and cats should be vaccinated for rabies and should wear their *rabies* tag at all times. Like a dog license, a rabies tag has a number on it that lets dog officers know who owns that pet. It is also against the law for dogs and cats not to have been vaccinated against rabies. Dogs and cats should also wear a name tag on their collars. The pet's name and the owner's address and phone number should be on the tag. This lets everyone know who owns this pet. Cats' collars should be made of a breakaway material so there is no danger of choking if the collar gets caught on something.

All your pets should be trained to come when you call, and should never be let outdoors without someone to watch them. A fenced-in



yard is a **must** for people who live in a town or city with a law against free-roaming dogs, called a leash law. A leash protects a pet from being hit by a car, running away, or getting lost. Pets should not be allowed to roam free; it is just too dangerous. If you want to take your cat out for a walk you can buy special cat harnesses if they don't like having a leash attached to their collar.

A very good way to help your pet be found quickly if they do get lost is to take pictures and a description of them ahead of time. The Animal Rescue League of Boston offers a free pamphlet, called **Operation Identification.** At the top of the inside sheet of the pamphlet is space for two pictures of your pet. One is a front view and one is a side view, and both should be color prints. When your pet is lost you will be surprised how many details you forget, so special care should be taken now (before your pet gets lost) to fill in all the information on the form in the space below the pictures. If your pet does become lost you can photocopy this pamphlet to make lost pet posters. You can then hang these up around town so that hopefully someone who has found your dog will know who to call. Here are some other things you can do if you lose your pet.

1. Have your family and friends start searching your neighborhood.

2. Call and visit the local dog pound and humane societies, such as the Animal Rescue League, to look for your pet.

3. Tell people in your neighborhood, especially the people who deliver the mail and newspapers. They may see your pets when they are making their deliveries.

4. Last and perhaps most important, if your pet is lost: **"Don't Give Up — Your Pet Won't."**

Remember, though, preventing your pets from getting lost is a lot easier than trying to find them if they do get lost. So remember to keep their tags on their collars and don't let them run loose outside.

PETS IN THE PICTURE

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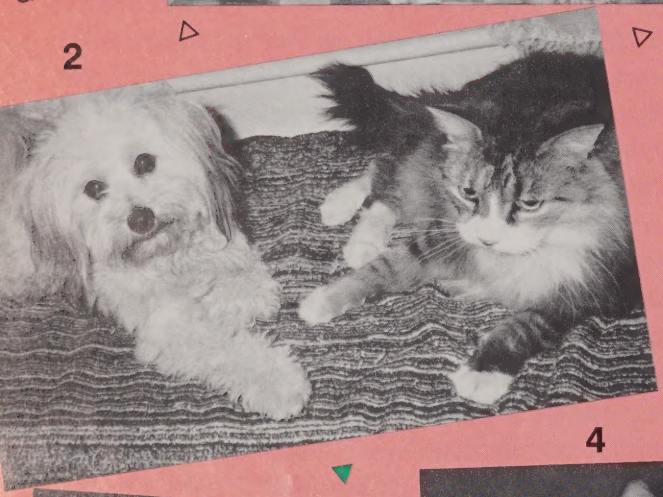

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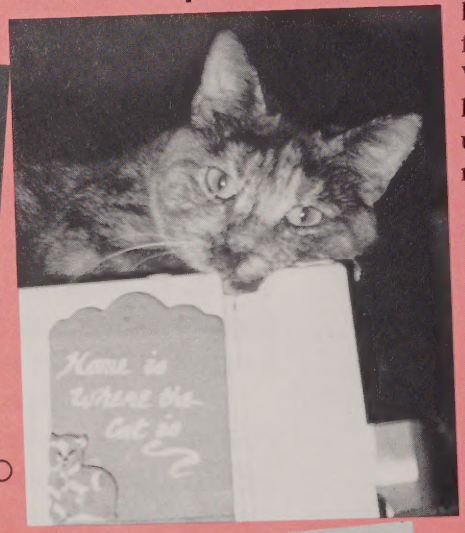

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5

1 "Cocoanut" (left) watches over her feline friend "Dazzel," a League alumnus, at their home in Little Rock, Arkansas. Owner Cheryl Badger, who adopted the pair when she lived in Newton, reports: "They brighten our days, and warm our hearts!"

2 "Snoopy," 2, and "Sassy," 11, were adopted from the Salem shelter by Mr. & Mrs. Fred Pearson of Lynn, along with a second cat, "Tiffy," 6 (not pictured). "They are all beautiful and healthy animals — anyone who wants to adopt an animal should go to the League," they write.

3 "We lost our beautiful old husky (13 years old) last year, and this picture is of our new boys," writes Shirley Cicoine of Foxboro. "'KoKo' and 'KisKi' are now seven months old and full of the dickens!"

4 "I am a very happy, content kitty," writes "Lovey" who was adopted by John Kenney and Flora Goutzos of Salem. "I want to thank you for caring for me 'til I came home."

5 "'Baltic' continues to be a loving and faithful companion, and a fine watchdog (with a fondness for sofa cushions)," according to Alessandra Kingsford of Wayland who adopted her pet from the League in 1988.

6 "I have the canine romance of the century — these tw are really tight," writes Katrina Anderson of Newton, show here with (l to r) "Atticus" and "Ellie." Adopted a year ag from the League's Boston shelter, "Ellie is simply a gen What she lacks in bulk, she makes up for in sheer personality her owner notes. "I wanted to let you know that one of your a ums is alive and thriving in Newton, in a pack that would n relinquish her for the world."

6

Love comes in all colors and sizes...

...at the Animal Rescue League of Boston.

Give the gift of love to someone special this year...a present that won't be too big or too small, too dull or too daring, and will never have to be exchanged after the holidays. With a pet adoption gift certificate from the Animal Rescue League of Boston, they can pick out the pet of their choice—a gift that will bring enjoyment for many years to come—at any of the League's four conveniently-located adoption shelters.

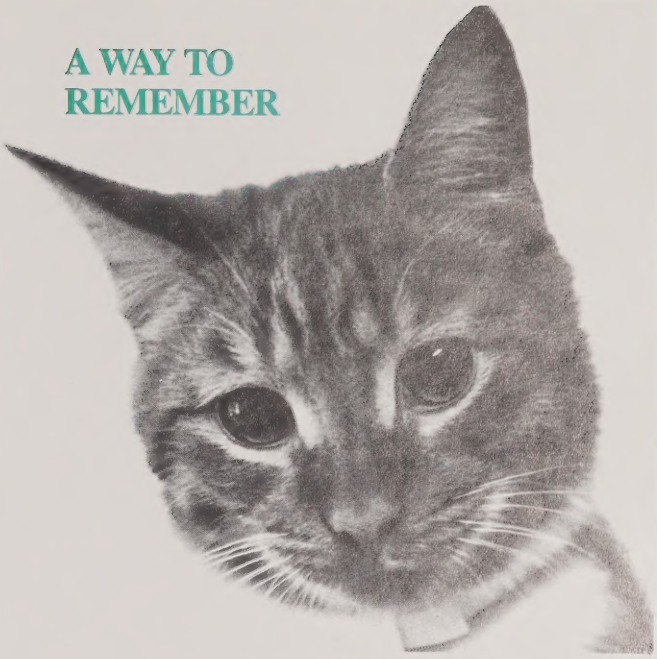
A gift certificate for a puppy or kitten, older dog or cat, hamster, gerbil, or even a rabbit can be ordered by telephone, and charged to your credit card.

Animal Rescue League of Boston 10 Chandler St. • (617) 426-9170

Branches: **Dedham** (617) 326-0729 **Salem** (508) 744-7910 **E. Brewster** (508) 255-1030

A non-profit humane society helping animals since 1899.

A WAY TO REMEMBER



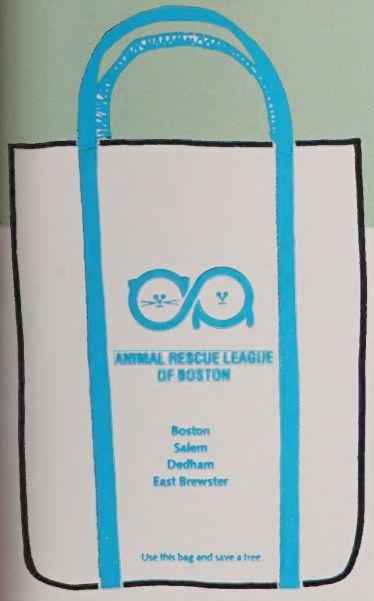
The League continues to rely on the generosity of its friends to meet the ever-expanding needs of our animal population. The cruel realism of inflation makes the League's task in providing needed services more difficult than ever, but with continued support, the challenge can and will be met.

In making a bequest to the League in your Will, please remember that the corporate title of our society is **"Animal Rescue League of Boston,"** that it was incorporated in 1899, and has no connection with any other similar society.

Form of Bequest

I give to the Animal Rescue League of Boston the sum of _____ dollars.

Animal Rescue League of Boston
10 Chandler Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116



SAVE A TREE

NEW ARL TOTE BAG

Be a conscientious consumer and carry your purchases in this rugged white cotton duck tote bag, roomy (17" × 11½") with royal blue handles and League logo. Priced at $12, plus $3 for shipping and handling. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

ORDER FORM:

Please send me _____ shopping totes at $12 each, plus $3 shipping and handling.

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Enclosed is my check in the amount of $ _____ made payable to the Animal Rescue League of Boston.

Mail to:
Animal Rescue League of Boston
P.O. Box 265
Boston, MA 02117

Celebrate spring with these "party animals." Photo by Chicky Taylor of Wakefield, winner of honorable mention in the League photo contest.

The President and Board of Directors
Cordially invite you to attend our

Annual Meeting

Thursday, April 22, 1993 at 2:30 p.m.
League Headquarters
Corner of Arlington & Tremont Streets
Boston, Massachusetts

Program:

Annual Meeting ⋆ Election of Directors
Special Guest Speaker

Our Fourfooted Friends (US ISSN 0030-6851)
Animal Rescue League of Boston
P.O. Box 265, Boston, Massachusetts 02117

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED